



Press Release from Souhegan Valley Rides

10/1/2012

For Immediate Release

Contact: Janet Langdell SVTC Chairperson @ 673-2876 or JAL508@hotmail.com

Souhegan Valley Rides Announces Change in Free Fare Program

To better assist area residents most in need, the Souhegan Valley Rides dial-a-ride bus service is modifying its free fare program. Effective November 1, 2012 passengers wanting to use the free fare program will need to obtain bus fare passes from their local welfare office or from SHARE Outreach Inc. Eligibility for the free bus passes will be based on each Town's criteria for assistance and on SHARE's eligibility requirements.

Serving the communities of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis and Milford, Souhegan Valley Rides (SVR) has been growing steadily since the first ride was provided in October 2008. Nearly 8500 rides have been provided to area residents for medical appointments, local grocery shopping and other essential activities. Of those rides, 17% have been provided using the free fare program. Initially this program was based on the honor system and passengers could request a free fare voucher as needed without any verification of financial need. Due to increasing numbers of requests for fare vouchers combined with limited resources, the SVTC Board of Directors in conjunction with the Nashua Transit System revised the program in order to be able to continue to make free fare rides available to those in greatest need.

Currently, this dial-a-ride transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 6 pm including travel time to and from the Nashua Transit System garage. While the focus of the bus service continues to be on healthcare related transportation, rides are available for access to social service appointments, local senior activity centers, local town facilities and libraries, and shopping.

For more information about the Souhegan Valley Rides bus service, please visit www.SouheganValleyRides.org, email any questions to Info@SouheganRides.org; or call 673-8482 to speak with a SVR volunteer.



The blue buses, friendly drivers and call center services are purchased from the Nashua Transit System. The NTS buses feature low-floor stepless entry for ease of passenger use, increased safety and more effective service.